
TIME KEEPS SLIPPING
PART 4 OF 4
MEGA MAN™
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TIME KEEPS ON SLIPPING
PART FOUR: DUPLICITY
HA HAHA HAHA HA!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE ROBOT MASTERS AREN'T OUR FRIENDS ANY-MORE, MEGA MAN.
WHAT'S GOING ON GUYS?! WHY ARE YOU TURNING ON US NOW?!
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and to R. W. VANDEVENTER


VERY ASTUTE OF YOU! AGENT KRANTZ, WAS IT?
THE ROBOT MASTERS ARE UNDER MY CONTROL ONCE AGAIN!
THANKS IN PART TO THE EFFORTS OF THESE TWO! WITH MY GENIUS, THESE LEFT-OVER ROBOT MASTERS WERE COMPLETED...AND THEY TURNED THE TIDE BACK IN MY FAVOR!
YOU FOOLS FELL FOR MY LITTLE KIDNAPPING SCHEME, JUST AS I PLANNED! TAKE A BOW, ROLL! YOU PLAYED YOUR PART PERFECTLY!
I'M SORRY! OIL MAN AMBUSHED ME!
WHY NOT SURRENDER NOW AND SAVE YOURSELF FROM THE SCRAP HEAP, ROCK?
THAT'S "MEGA MAN" TO YOU, DOCTOR! AND I'LL NEVER GIVE UP!


I HAVE A PLAN, AGENT KRANTZ.
I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS.
I COPIED THE SIX ROBOT MASTERS' ABILITIES ON THE WAY HERE. WITH THAT MUCH POWER, I CAN DISTRACT THEM ALL LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO RESCUE MY SISTER.
I DON'T LIKE THOSE ODDS. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE ALL OF THEM AT ONCE?
ACTUALLY...


...I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN'T. I'VE ALREADY SEEN WHAT THE COMBINED POWERS OF THE OTHERS CAN DO TO A ROBOT LIKE ME.*
*SEE MEGA MAN VOL. 1 GRAPHIC NOVEL.
BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN ACTUALLY FIGHT THEM RIGHT NOW. SO, PLEASE...SAVE MY SISTER FOR ME.
TIME'S WASTING. CAN WE FINISH THEM OFF NOW?
THEY HAD THEIR CHANCE TO BEG FOR MERCY! DESTROY THEM!
YOU'RE ONE BRAVE LITTLE ROBOT.
I'LL GET ROLL TO SAFETY AND MAKE SURE DOCTOR LIGHT IS CLEARED OF ANY WRONG-DOING.
PLEASE, CALL ME ROSIE. ON YOUR MARK.
THANK YOU, AGENT KRANTZ.


NOW!
PRETTY SLICK TRICK...
...BUT AIN'T NOBODY SLICK AS ME, BABY.
AUGH!


WE'LL SEE HOW SLICK YOU ARE...
...WHEN I BURN OFF ALL YOUR --<-!
WHEW! NICE SAVE! WE OUGHT TO CALL YOU DRAMATIC TIMING MAN.
HMPH. I CAN ONLY RECHARGE MY TIME STOP POWER SO FAST.
TIME'S UP, MEGA MAN.


BLAM!
IMPOSSIBLE!
FORGOTTEN WHAT MY STATIC FIELD DOES TO YOUR POWERS ALREADY?
AND I'LL CONTINUE TO DO SO FOR THE REST OF THE FIGHT. NOW THEN--GUTS MAN?
HA!
YEAH! THAT'S WHAT I CALL "PUNCHING THE CLOCK!"
WHAT?
IT'S AN OLD EXPRESSION MEANING...
NO, I MEAN, I THOUGHT DR. WILY HAD REPROGRAMMED YOU AGAIN?
HE TRIED, AND WE PLAYED ALONG TO SET UP THIS AMBUSH.
AFTER LAST TIME, DR. LIGHT MADE SURE WE WERE TAMPER-PROOFED.
CLEVER, THOMAS.


YOU LITTLE COWARD! YOU CAN'T FACE YOUR FOE WITHOUT MAKING THEM PRONE FIRST!
I'LL CRUSH Y--<!
IT'S CALLED BEING PRAGMATIC, OAF! I CAN STILL FREEZE YOU AT SHORT RANGE.
SORRY, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CUT YOU SHORT!
YOU'RE NOT FUNNY!
WORD. THIS AIN'T FUNNY AT ALL!


ROLL! I'M AGENT KRANTZ! ARE YOU HURT? OR, ER, DAMAGED?
NO, I'M--
GET AWAY FROM MY HOSTAGE!
BLAM!
LOOK OUT!
AAAAH!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
I'VE GOT YOU!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
BLAM!
KA-BOOM!
NO!


LET'S SEE YOU MAKE YOUR STUPID PUNS NOW!
LIKE YOU'RE ONE TO TALK. I *TOLD* YOU I'D KEEP YOU IN CHECK.
SURE!
LET'S SEE YOU SURF ON THIS!
WATCH!
AUGH!
THAT'LL BE ENOUGH OF THAT, PARTNER!


ROLL! ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE! AGENT KRANTZ SAVED ME!
WHAT HAPPENED TO USING ALL YOUR COPIED POWERS?
I DON'T NEED THEM! THE ROBOT MASTERS ARE DOING GREAT ON THEIR OWN!
THEN MAYBE...
...YOU SHOULD STOP DR. WILY WHILE THEY'RE BUSY?
OH! RIGHT! HIM!
STAY BACK WHERE IT'S SAFE, ROLL! IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL NEED THESE POWERS AFTER ALL.
LEAD THE WAY! I'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

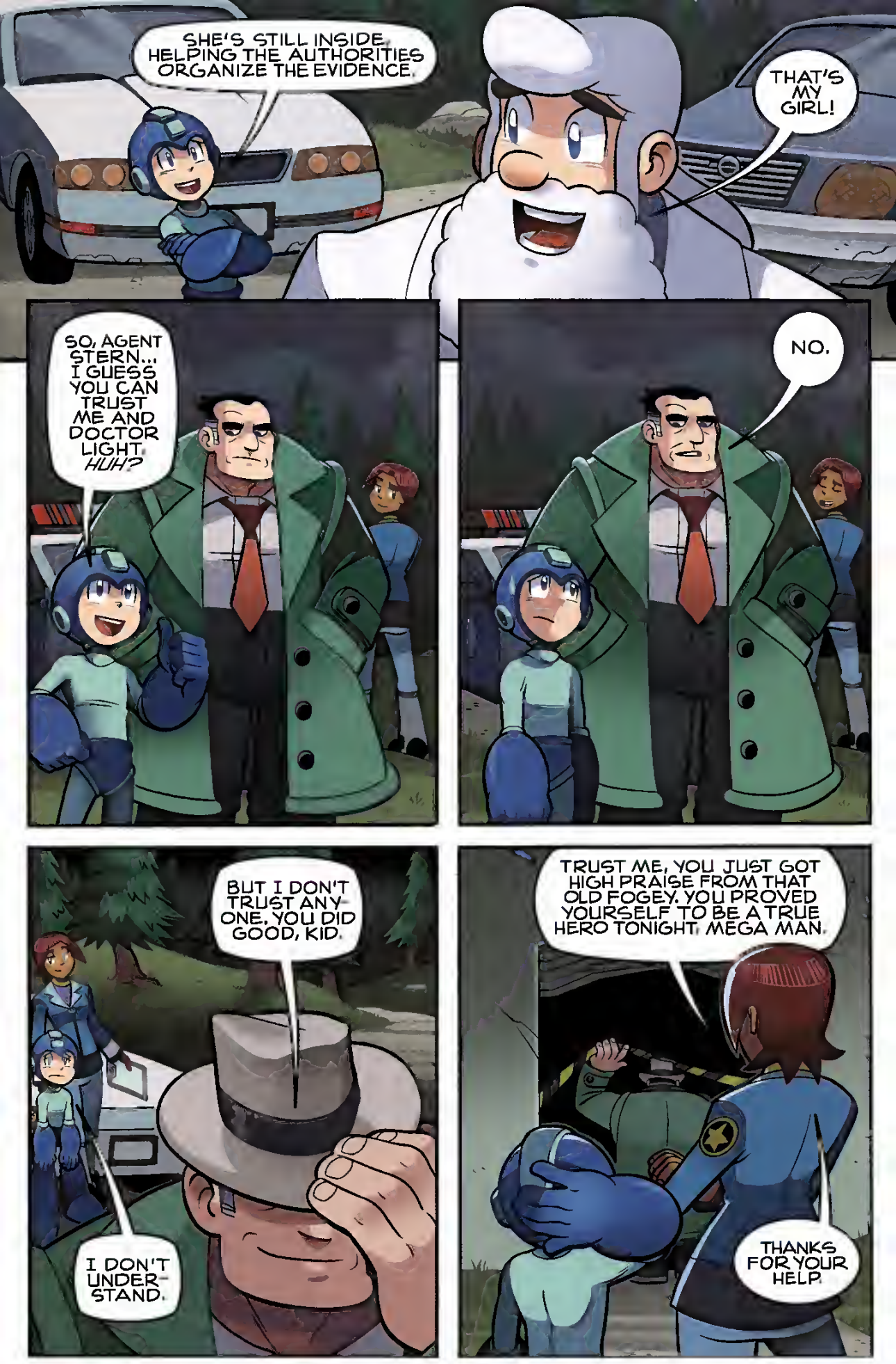

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, DOCTOR WILY!
SURRENDER!

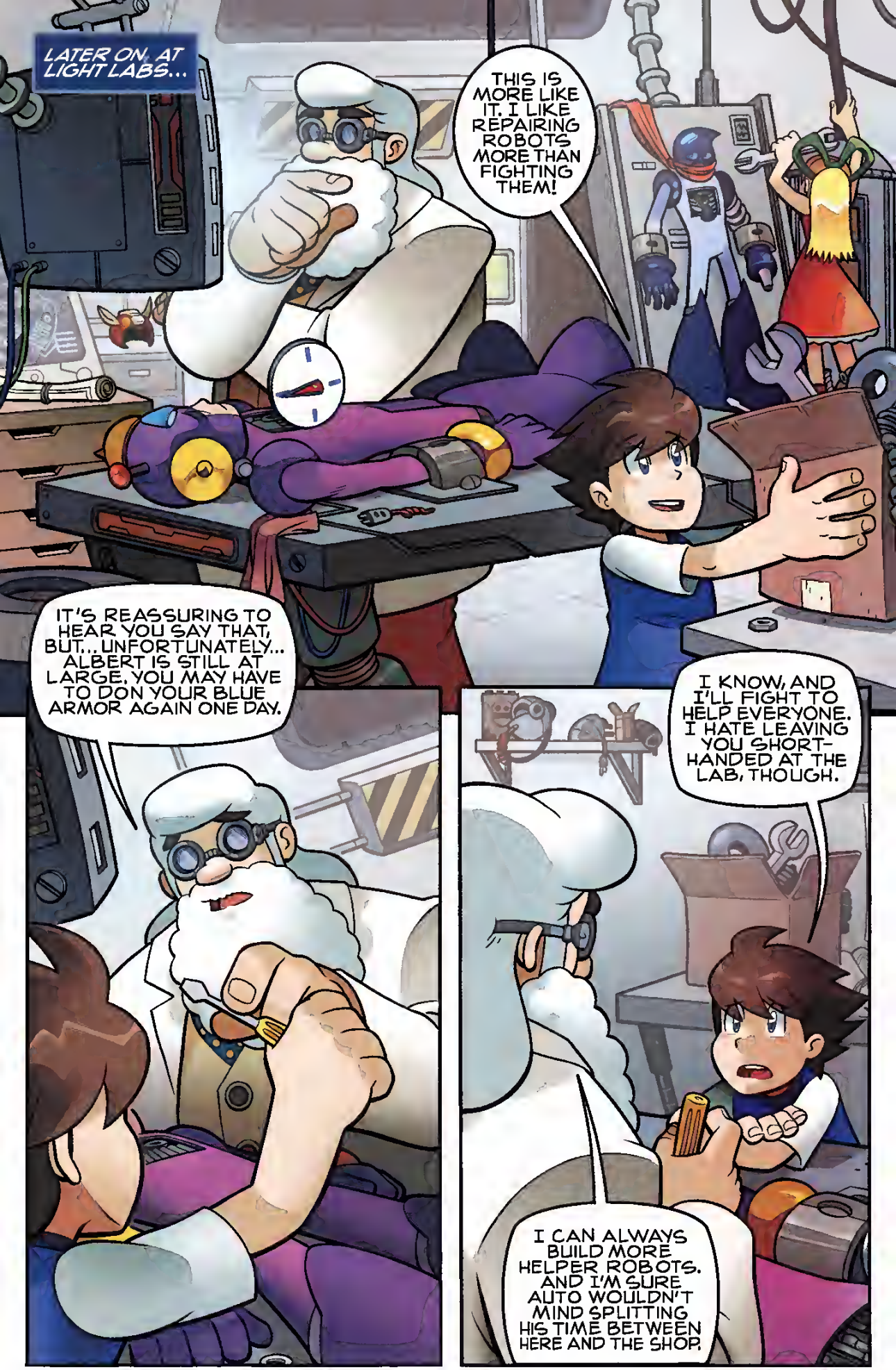

I MUST SAY, I'M IMPRESSED BY THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ROBOT MASTERS.
EVEN WITH THOMAS' MEDDLING, THEY'RE REMARKABLE.
SOME OF YOU ARE *ESPECIALLY* REMARKABLE.
THAT'S NICE, BUT YOU'RE STILL UNDER ARREST!
IT'S NO USE, MEGA MAN...
...IT'S A DECOY.
DON'T LOOK SO GLUM, AGENT. YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE FIGURED IT OUT. I *AM* A GENIUS, AFTER ALL.

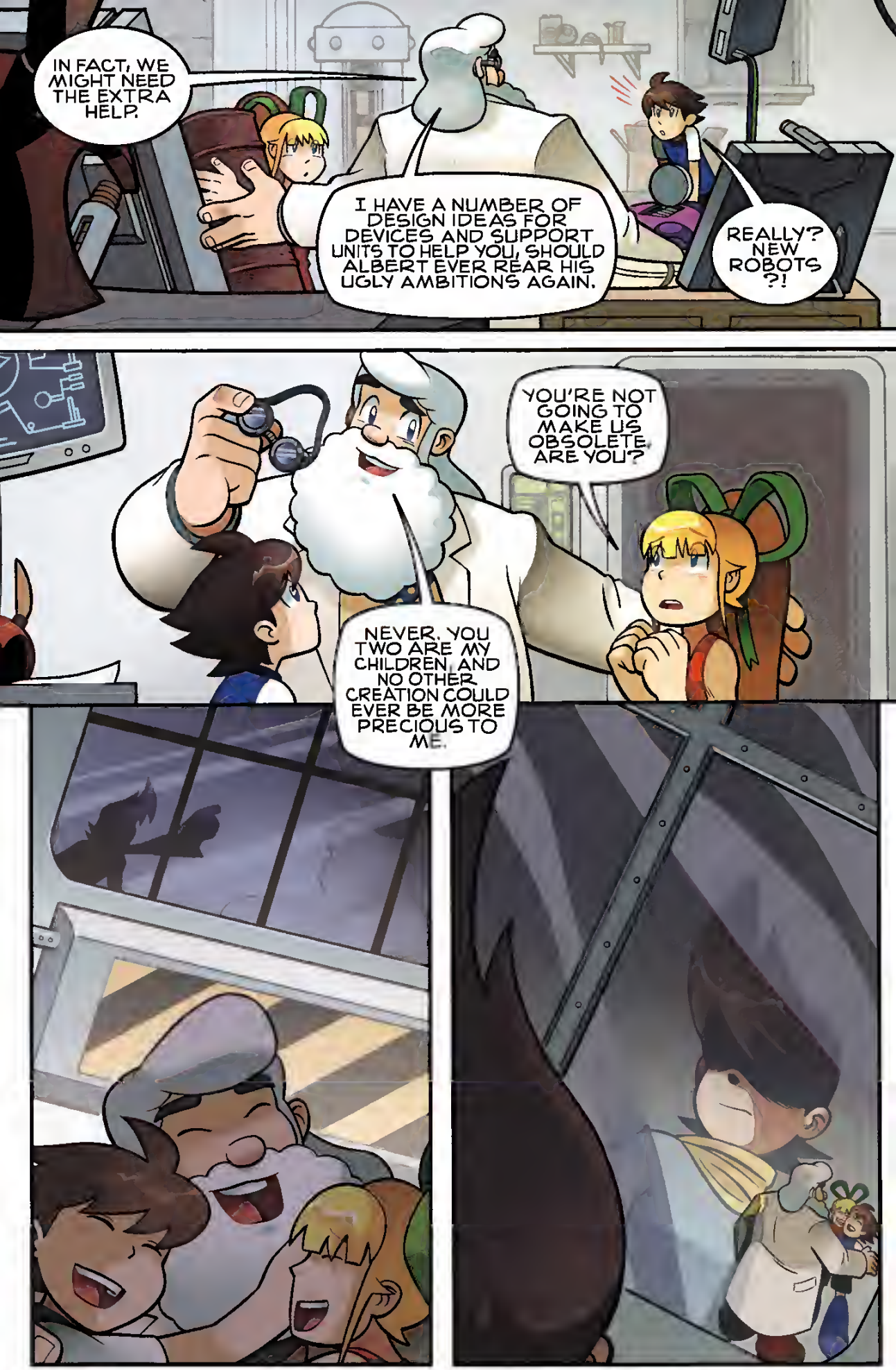

HAHAHA! YOU GOT THEM GOOD, BOSS! THAT SAUCER IS JUST A HOLOGRAM PROJECTOR WITH A TURRET! THERE AIN'T EVEN AN ENGINE IN IT!
I...I NEVER EVEN SAW HIM MAKE THE SWITCH...
WHAHAHA!
I WAS LONG GONE BEFORE YOU EVEN GOT HERE! THE RE-CAPTURED ROBOT MASTERS WOULD'VE BEEN SUMMONED TO ME ONCE YOU WERE DESTROYED.
I MAY HAVE LOST MY ROBOTS, BUT AT LEAST I GET TO SEE YOU ALL FRUSTRATED BY MY GENIUS.
HAHAHA!
HA HAH-- RZK!
WHOA! HOLD IT! WE NEED THAT AS EVIDENCE TO CLEAR DR. LIGHT!
...RIGHT. I'M SORRY.


BAH! LET WILY RUN AWAY LIKE THE COWARD HE IS! WE WON THE FIGHT!
YEAH. THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP BACK THERE.
YOU GUYS HAD IT UNDER CONTROL! YOU LOOKED REALLY COOL!
WELL, OF COURSE I DID!
WHATEVER. I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE SAFE, ROLL.
UM... THANKS, ICE MAN. IT WAS NICE OF ALL OF YOU TO COME RESCUE ME.
HEY, GIL. YEAH, IT'S OVER. THE HOSTAGE IS SAFE, BUT WE MISSED THE BIG FISH. BRING A BIG CLEAN-UP CREW WITH YOU AND SOME INHIBITOR COLLARS.
HEAR THAT? SHE'S THANKING ALL OF US.
I HEARD HER! DON'T RUB IT IN!
?


SOON...
DON'T WORRY, GUYS. ONCE THE FEDERAL AGENTS ARE DONE IN THEIR INVESTIGATION, DR. LIGHT WILL BE ABLE TO REPRO-GRAM YOU TO BE GOOD.
ACTUALLY, THIS VAN IS HEADED STRAIGHT FOR LIGHT LABS.
THE DOC'S BEEN CLEARED SIDES, I DOUBT OUR TECH BOYS COULD DO MUCH WITH THESE TWO, ANYWAY.
REALLY? SO DR. LIGHT IS FREE TO COME HOME?
SURE.
ROCK!
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU AND YOUR SISTER! WHERE IS ROLL?
THAT'S KINDA SWEET. CREEPY, BUT KINDA SWEET.
BE NICE, GIL.


SHE'S STILL INSIDE, HELPING THE AUTHORITIES ORGANIZE THE EVIDENCE.
THAT'S MY GIRL!
SO, AGENT STERN... I GUESS YOU CAN TRUST ME AND DOCTOR LIGHT. HUH?
NO.
BUT I DON'T TRUST ANY-ONE. YOU DID GOOD, KID.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
TRUST ME, YOU JUST GOT HIGH PRAISE FROM THAT OLD FOGEY. YOU PROVED YOURSELF TO BE A TRUE HERO TONIGHT, MEGA MAN.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.


LATER ON, AT LIGHT LABS...
THIS IS MORE LIKE IT. I LIKE REPAIRING ROBOTS MORE THAN FIGHTING THEM!
IT'S REASSURING TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, BUT... UNFORTUNATELY... ALBERT IS STILL AT LARGE, YOU MAY HAVE TO DON YOUR BLUE ARMOR AGAIN ONE DAY.
I KNOW, AND I'LL FIGHT TO HELP EVERYONE. I HATE LEAVING YOU SHORT-HANDED AT THE LAB, THOUGH.
I CAN ALWAYS BUILD MORE HELPER ROBOTS. AND I'M SURE AUTO WOULDN'T MIND SPLITTING HIS TIME BETWEEN HERE AND THE SHOP.


IN FACT, WE MIGHT NEED THE EXTRA HELP.
I HAVE A NUMBER OF DESIGN IDEAS FOR DEVICES AND SUPPORT UNITS TO HELP YOU, SHOULD ALBERT EVER REAR HIS UGLY AMBITIONS AGAIN.
REALLY? NEW ROBOTS ?!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE US OBSOLETE, ARE YOU?
NEVER. YOU TWO ARE MY CHILDREN, AND NO OTHER CREATION COULD EVER BE MORE PRECIOUS TO ME.


MEANWHILE...
GRR...WELL-PLAYED, THOMAS. YOU'VE YET AGAIN ROBBED ME OF MY GLORY.
I SHOULD'VE BEEN TOP OF OUR CLASS. I SHOULD'VE BEEN ON THAT STAGE, UNVEILING MY ROBOT MASTERS. I SHOULD HAVE THE WORLD IN THE PALM OF MY HAND...
LAB 07
...AND I SHOULD BE RULING IT FROM THIS CASTLE, NOT USING IT AS A HIDEOUT!


"KEEP YOUR ROBOT MASTERS. THEY WERE FLAWED BY YOUR INPUT, ANYWAY. I WILL BUILD BETTER ONES!
"THE POWERS YOU INVENTED I WILL PERFECT!
"I WILL PUSH THE LIMITATIONS OF ROBOTS BEYOND WHAT YOU COULD EVER DREAM!
"AND I'LL BE SURE TO ACCOUNT FOR YOUR PRECIOUS MEGA MAN THIS TIME!!
IT'S TIME TO SEE WHO THE REAL GENIUS IS, THOMAS...


...AND PUT OUR ROBOT MASTERS TO THE TEST!
THE NEXT GENERATION OF SINISTER ROBOTS IS ON THE WAY!
DR. WILY RETURNS
NEXT MONTH:
Part ONE

MEGA-MAIL PRESENTS

MASTER WORKS

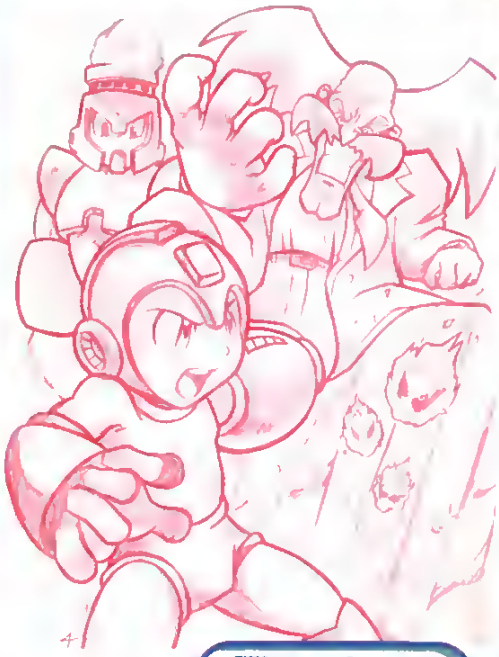
YOUR MEGA MAN FAN ART



"MegaGoemon" sent to megaman@archiecomics.com



Joseph S. from New Jersey



Tico J. sent to megaman@archiecomics.com

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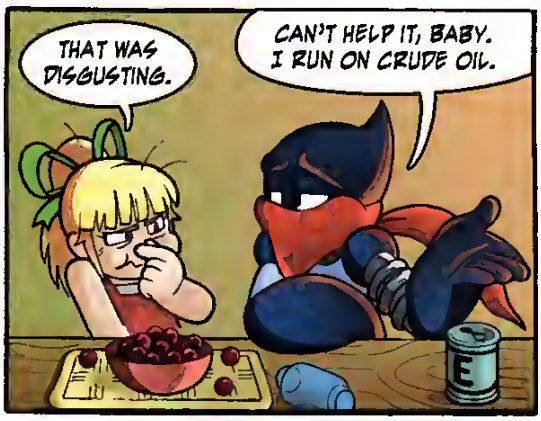
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— SHORT CIRCUITS —

SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN
PENCILS/INKS: BEN BATES
COLORS: VIN LOVALLO





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MEGA-MAIL

WRITE TO US @: MEGA-MAIL c/o ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
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Well, what'd you guys and gals out there in the year 200X think of "TIME KEEPS ON SLIPPING"? Let's take a peak into Mail Mountain (which sounds shockingly like a roller coaster attraction) to find out...

Dear Mega-Mail,
The first few Mega Man comics have been a thrilling roller coaster ride.

Like "Mail Mountain"!

Though the series is new, I enjoy it because it is taken so seriously. From the get-go, Mega Man feels like it will last for years to come, and I can't wait until it is just as expansive as Sonic is. I only hope the four-part story arcs will eventually be dropped, so the series can develop at its own pace. But till then, I'll be enjoying the series just as much because of it's awesomeness.

Sincerely,
(from a small fan growing into a bigger one)
John P.
from Connecticut

Thanks for the letter, John! We pride ourselves in taking the source material seriously - mostly because we're all big Mega Man fans! As for the four-part arcs, we'll definitely be switching things up from time to time!

Dear Mega-Mail,
This is a wonderful series that has shown me the beauty that is Mega Man! I read this comic on an impulse after reading something about it the STH or Sonic Universe. I had played Mega Man games before but never really got into them, but after reading this masterpiece I have decided to give them another try. Please keep the good stuff coming.

Andrew B.
sent to megaman@archiecomics.com

P.S - Is your Agent Stern character based off of the Ace Attorney series' (also by Capcom) Detective Gumshoe? They look strikingly similar.

Glad to hear you're diggin' the series, Andrew! The color scheme for Agent Stern was perhaps a nod by artist Ben Bates to Gumshoe, though our good ol' Gil has a (grizzled) personality all his own!

Dear Mega-Mail,
My son and I love Mega man!! Clearly Mr. Flynn and Mr. Thomas are having a great deal of fun with this title! We also love the joke comic strips!! Keep up the great work!

Your fan,
Doug and Matt B.
sent to megaman@archiecomics.com

Woo! Always good to hear from multi-generational Mega-fan duos! In fact, that's my favorite type of Mega-duo!

Dear Mega-Mail,
I'm a huge Mega Man fan and never have I imagined that someone or some group of people would actually create comics about Mega Man that's drawn and presented this great; and it's about time!

Time, eh? Well I guess you could say that we're a well OILED machine over here at Archie! eh? eh? *dodges tomatoes*

Having Mega Man as part of Archie comics is a wonderful idea! Thank you! I just read the first four issues and I enjoyed it. I want more and I can't wait to read about Proto Man and Bass and their stories. =)

Kelvin T.
sent to megaman@archiecomics.com

Sit tight, Kelvin - Proto Man and Bass will be here soon enough! Did you catch our Proto Man in this issue?

Dear Mega-Mail,
I find it interesting how you added extra details onto the backs of the Robot Masters. That's not usually done, as you only saw their front in the games. Cool! Also, Ice Man is pretty lame. And you captured that perfectly. Only one more thing from me: please tell me *SOMEONE* there gets the reference in my signature!!

Signed,
Troy F.
EXPLORER OF THE GREAT DUNGEONS OF ZORK!!

Haha but c'mon, Ice Man has got the COOLEST power of all the RM's! *giggle* But seriously though you're gonna see Ice Man do some pretty heroic and awesome stuff along the way!

See y'all next month for part one of "THE RETURN OF DR. WILY"!

NEXT ISSUE: 9



THE RETURN OF DR. WILY: PART ONE

THE "MEGA MAN 2" ADAPTATION BEGINS!

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